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MRS. YAROSLAV R. STETZKO

Unrest Rising In Soviet Bloc, Refugee Says

On the last day of June 1941, as the Nazi army was beginning its advance into the Soviet Union, the people of the Ukraine took advantage of the disarray of war to reclaim the independence they had lost to Russia 20 years earlier.

But those Ukrainians who looked upon the Nazis as "liberators" soon found they had been mistaken. The leaders of the infant Ukraine government, including prime minister Yaroslav Stetzko, were thrown into prison by the German Gestapo.

Today Stetzko and his wife, Slava, head the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations, Inc., an international anti-Communist organization. Mrs. Stetzko, who spoke here yesterday on the 25th anniversary of the founding of the bloc, recounted some of her country's history for The Star.

Underground Active

The nationalist underground had been active in the Ukraine since Soviet Russia had annexed the country in 1921, she said. The nationalists were waiting for a chance to make their break, and "such an occasion, we understood, was the war between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia."

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"Before the Germans really came in we proclaimed independence," she recalled in her speech. "It's a sad irony that in a few hours, the entire country was under the rule of the enemy."

The capital of the country was Lvov, the "second capital," not the ancient capital, Kiev.

The dreams of independence were shattered. "One Gieszko affirmed Hitler that here on Ukrainian territory, is something new which is not in a 'new' or 'old' sense," Mrs. Stetko said.

Husband Arrested

Her husband, along with the rest of his government, was arrested. Stetko was sent to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Germany, where he remained until 1944. Mrs. Stetko spent 13 months in a Ukrainian prison.

Soon after releasing her husband, Mrs. Stetko said, the Nazis thought better of it and tried to recapture him. He was wounded in the bargain and was unable to return to the Ukraine.

In 1945, after the end of the war, she joined her husband in Germany. Ukrainian nationalists continued their fight after the war, she said, but were finally put down in 1948.

The Stetkos have since moved to Munich, from where they travel all over the world speaking and enlisting aid in their anti-Russian campaign.

Today, nationalism is on the rise throughout the nations of the Soviet Union. In movements Mrs. Stetko likened to that which brought about the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia last summer.

In an article in the Sunday Star of Feb. 22, Victor Zorza noted, "The rising tide of nationalism among the peoples who make up the Soviet Union is causing concern in Moscow."

Percent of the 47 million Ukrainians are in the vanguard of this national movement. Zorza wrote "Today, young Ukrainians in prison for demanding freedom are the young leaders of the movement in Moscow—have become national leaders here."

Mrs. Stetko, in her speech, will discuss the possibilities of coexistence within the Soviet bloc. She will speak tomorrow at 1 p.m. in the Pennsylvania Suite of the Mayflower Hotel, Connecticut Avenue and De Sales Street NW, before the Washington chapter of the Anti-Comintern League of Nations.

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